

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 17, 20 and 28 are amended. Claim 22 has been canceled in this amendment. New claim 33 is added. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14-21, 23-25, and 28-33 are pending.

Claims 1, 20 and 28 have been amended to resolve the informality noted by the Examiner. Claim 17 has been amended to recite inputting the document into a second personalization mechanism downstream from the second leafing mechanism, and performing a personalization operation on the second preselected page that is different from the personalization operation performed by the first personalization mechanism. Claim 22 has been canceled as a result of the amendment to claim 17. New claim 33 depends from claim 17 and recites that if additional personalization by either the first personalization mechanism or the second personalization mechanism is necessary, returning the document back to the first or second leafing mechanism, as disclosed on page 17, lines 14-21. No new matter has been entered.

Claim objections

Claim 1 is objected to because "being capable of performing" is not a positive limitation. Applicants traverse. The objected to language is a positive limitation, in that it obviously excludes mechanisms that are not capable of performing a personalization operation. However, to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first personalization mechanism is configured to perform a personalization operation. A similar change has been made to claim 28, even though claim 28 was not objected to on this grounds.

Claim 20 is objected to, with an indication that "a" should be changed to "the". Claim 20 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 28 is objected to, with an indication that "the" should be changed to "a". Claim 28 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Art Rejections

Claims 17-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 364,730 (hereinafter "Devrient").

In addition, claim 23 [sic 24] is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devrient in view of US 4,347,529 to Atalla (hereinafter "Atalla").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

Claim 17, as amended, recites, among other features, inputting the document into a second personalization mechanism downstream from the second leafing mechanism, performing a second personalization operation on the second preselected page that is different from the personalization operation performed by the first personalization mechanism.

As noted by the Examiner in his reasons for indicating allowable subject matter, the prior art, including Devrient, does not teach an arrangement of personalization mechanisms and leafing mechanisms where the second personalization mechanism performs a personalization operation that is different from that of the first personalization mechanism. As a result, the method now recited in claim 17 is not taught by Devrient or the other prior art of record.

For at least this reason, claim 17 is patentable over Devrient. Claims 18-21, 23-25 and 33 depend from claim 17 and are patentable along with claim 17 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejection to the dependent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The indicated allowability of claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14-16 and 28 is gratefully noted. Applicants note that claims 29-32 were not indicated as being allowable, even though these claims depend from claim 1. Applicants assume that this was an oversight and that claims 29-32 are allowable as well.

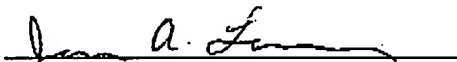
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims now pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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